

just been sent to 58,000 persons.

Checks have just been sent to 58,000 persons for quarterly interest on registered 4 per cent bonds. The coupon bonds are still more widely distributed, so that at least 200,000 persons are probably affected directly as holders of bonds. But the national banks hold in Government bonds over \$400,000,000, or nearly nine tenths of the capital represented by the shares, which are owned by 208,000 stockholders, and, of these 105,000 own not more than 10 per cent, and 182,000, or nearly nine tenths own not more than 50 shares each. The State

banks have about \$7,739,000 invested in the same way, and these probably represent at least 50,000 stockholders. The loan and trust companies, representing a large but unknown number of owners, have about \$18,000,000 invested in United States bonds, or 85 per cent of their entire capital. The life insurance companies have about \$12,000,000 invested in Government bonds, and they represent the same number of nearly 600,000 policy-holders. The fire and marine and casualty insurance companies represent a still larger but unknown number of policy-holders, and those doing business in New York alone have over \$6,000,000 invested in United States bonds, out of about \$105,000,000 of assets in this country. The

The disastrous effect of a serious decline in the value of bonds would be far more extensive. By the corporations mentioned above \$2,000,000,000 are now loaned for the support of various branches of commerce and industry, viz., by national banks

...\$200,000,000; by State banks, \$200,000,000; by savings banks, \$420,000,000; by loan and trust companies, \$65,000,000; by life insurance companies, \$200,000,000; and by fire and marine insurance companies doing business in New York, \$30,000,000. Shrinkage of public credit would involve a shrinkage of the assets of these corporations, and a corresponding and possibly sudden and sweeping, contraction of their loans. To merchants in their stores and to manufacturers in their factories, to workmen in their shops and mills and mines, the consequences would be not less disastrous than

the reluctant capitalists or lenders. Nevertheless this country seen a financial revival as terrible and as far-reaching in its consequences as would now result from a collapse of that splendid public credit which wise legislation and faithful administration have for years been building up and fortifying.

Such bills may be proposed in ignorance of the fact that an increased issue of legal tender notes would cause a decline in their value. But the legal-tender was worth less than 90 cents on the dollar in 1868, when nearly every

prominent Democrat was carried away with the idea that a proposal to pay the five-twenty bonds in paper, and to tax all bonds, would render the party irresistible in the approaching election. These proposals the party then embodied in its national platform. Gen. Hancock who narrowly missed the Presidential nomination on that declaration of principles and purposes, gave it his unqualified approval. It was

zealously supported by every one of the prominent leaders who are now asking public support for that party on the ground that it proposes this year "a strict maintenance of the public faith." But can it be supposed that the party intended to violate the public faith in 1858? It must be presumed that the De-

1869. It may be presumed that the Democratic party and Gen. Hancock thought that the payment of bonds in greenbacks would be both honest and wise. Nothing has been said by the Democratic party or by Gen. Hancock himself to show that the course deemed honest and wise in 1863 is now deemed unwise or dishonest. Not a thing has been done or said to show that the Democratic party or Gen. Hancock would not consider such a

The danger is near and real. Within a year bonds amounting to \$697,350,900 become payable or redeemable. Every effort must be made by refunding has been defeated by the Democratic majority in Congress, in spite of earnest appeals by the Secretary of the Treasury. Bills for the payment of all the bonds which mature or become redeemable next year by a new issue of Greenbacks are now pending in Congress, and are zealously supported by many Democrats.

Nor has Gen. Hancock uttered a word, since his approval of the platform of 1868, to indicate that he would hesitate now to carry out the financial measures to which he then committed himself. On the contrary, within the past month the Democratic party has been rejoicing at its supposed success in electing Greenback candidate in Maine, whose national platform declares, as he does, that "the

bonds of the United States should not be funded, but paid as rapidly as possible," means of an increased issue of legal-tender notes. And this candidate, standing up this platform, Gen. Hancock had recently congratulated upon his supposed election a "glorious result." Perhaps Gen. Hancock does not understand that an issue of \$700,000 more legal tenders to retire the bonds

which become redeemable next year, would be a double violation of repeated pledges of the United States. The Government has pledged itself not to issue more legal tenders, and pay its bonds in gold. Perhaps he does not understand that such a new issue for such a purpose would cause the United States not to fall greatly in value, so that public credit would be forced to receive for their bonds less than the value of the bonds.

less than the value promised. But if he does not, what safety can there be in trusting executive power to him? It seems hard to believe that a great party can consider such a method either honest or wise. But the same men who believed that such a step would neither dishonest nor fatal in 1868, may easily, and with as much sincerity, believe that it would be dishonest or fatal now. When the Democratic party in 1868, in the name of

the Democratic party, in spite of all Republican efforts, defeated every plan of refunding the Winter, in what other way did it intend to deal with the bonds that become redeemable next year? In Congress, as in Maine, Democrats who knew that payment of bonds was greenbacks would be ruinous and dishonorable for the sake of party success, joined with Democrats and Greenback men who propose to refund. Who can say that the same will be true in the States?

would not sacrifice conviction to partisan expediency after the election? Who can that this alliance would not destroy the pul credit, stop specie payments, and plunge country into incalculable disasters by a issue of \$700,000,000 in legal tender notes?

Who can tell how soon, if the Democratic party should succeed, the Resumption Act would be repealed and the paper currency inflated. Solemn pledges of public faith stand in the way. But the Democratic party has no time regarded these as binding pledges, and it is not more likely to so regard them now than it was one year ago. In February, 1862, when specie payments had continued near

two months, 106 Democrats in the House voted for a repeal of the Resumption act, and 27 against it. The spirit of the party was more decided then than it was in November 1877, 11 months before resumption, when Democrats voted for the repeal of the act 28 against it. . . . Nearly four-fifths of the Democratic party, according to representation in Congress, earnestly opposed the resumption of specie payments by

resumption even since specie payments began because it has been trained to believe that such a resumption is mischievous, and honestly deflation, because it has been taught that more money is needed "to emancipate the people from the tyranny of money kings." These notions have not been eradicated by a sudden change in the tactics of a few party managers. Who can feel assured that they will not shut legislation off as soon as the Democratic party

Who can tell how soon the best banking system the country has yet seen, would be destroyed if the Democratic party succeeds? There is scarcely any other purpose in which that party is so nearly united as in the purpose to get rid of the national banks. . . . South has given the system so little favor that less than 9 per cent of the national banks

little more than 5 per cent. of their deposits are to be found in that section. In no very Western State and even in Maine and Vermont, the Democratic party has formally demanded abolition of the national bank system. As early as January, 1870, a resolution instructing a committee to report a bill to withdraw all national bank circulation and issue greenbacks in its stead, received 53 De-

ocratic votes in the House, with only 1 Democratic vote against it. From that day to this there has been no evidence that the purpose of the party in this respect has changed, the bills to carry that purpose into effect are pending, with very strong support. If the Democratic party should ever secure the executive, a most strenuous effort to break the national banking system would undoubtedly be made.

Who can tell how much the Democratic party, if it had the power, would impair the public credit by cutting down the revenues? The party has manifested, alike by its past conduct and by its open declarations, a fixed purpose to change the revenue system, and not for the better. Already it has thrown many obstacles in the way of collection of the

on whisky, until the people in Southern districts have come to expect a total abolition of the tax as a result of the election of Gen. Hancock. Already it taught producers of tobacco the false idea of the tax upon the manufactured product and upon the grower and not on the consumer, that a sectional agitation for the repeal of the tax is in progress. We have entered upon

period of hopeful activity in commerce and industry. Trade multiplies; manufactures move forward with vigor; labor rejoices in fair wages and full employment. Yet we have but just emerged from a long period of disaster, in which the resources of all were greatly strained and the reserves of capital greatly exhausted. A year or two of restoration, rebuilding, large outlays for the adjustment of business

new needs, became necessary after a prolonged prostration. There has not been time, as for business and industry in their various branches to get fully into condition for profitable work, much less has there been time for the accumulation of new reserves. Business interests are not prepared to bear another period of strain or disaster. They have just begun to thrive. A reaction now would be the reverse of a long, more dangerous